

THERE IS CLAIMED:

1. A resource manager for a satellite telecommunication system including a plurality of user stations and at least one satellite, said resource manager including a congestion controller that assigns resources to uplinks, a demand assignment device that assigns resources to uplinks, and, for each satellite, a central entity that includes:
  - a subsystem of said congestion controller adapted to:
    - receive requests sent by user stations of said satellite, each request expressing the bit rate necessary for a group of connections supported by a user station and by the same downlink of said satellite, and
    - determine the bit rate authorized for said group of connections, and
  - a subsystem of said demand assignment device adapted to allocate resources to an uplink, at each user station, as a function of said bit rates authorized by said subsystem of said congestion controller and globally for all connections supported by said user station.
2. The manager claimed in claim 1 wherein, for each user station, said subsystem of said demand assignment device situated in said central unit is adapted to:
  - receive a request for assignment of additional bit rate, sent by a user station when it detects violation of a filling threshold of a buffer for variable bit rate non-real-time traffic when it has been assigned a minimum bit rate,
  - send said station bit rate assignment messages authorizing a higher bit rate,
  - receive from said station a request indicating that said filling has begun to decrease and indicating the filling level,
  - determine by anticipation the time at which said filling will be zero, and
  - deduce therefrom a time at which it will be able to send said station a bit rate assignment message again allocating said minimum bit rate, said time being chosen so that said message reaches said station at a time close to the time at which said filling will be zero.
3. The manager claimed in claim 1 wherein, for each user station, said subsystem of said demand assignment device situated in said central entity is adapted to allocate resources to said downlinks on demand so that the sum of the bit rates assigned to the various connections supported by the same downlink is always less than the maximum bit rate permitted for said link, to prevent congestion on said downlinks.